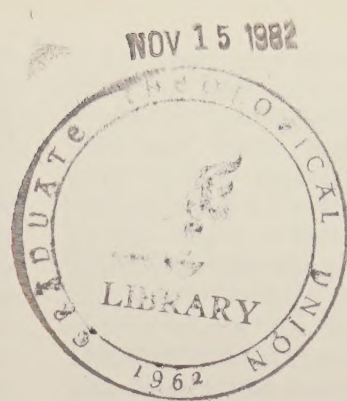




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Leaves of Healing



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The Challenge of Mission Work in Southern Africa



Edgar and Netta Mahon

The following is an interview with Reverend Edgar Mahon, Superintendent of the Mahon Mission in South Africa, by Reverend Earl Minton, concerning the work of the Mahon Mission and the challenge of the work among the Amazoni - the People of Zion. This interview was taped in the Office of the General Overseer, Roger W. Ottersen, on September 10, 1982.

Rev. Minton: Welcome to Zion, Edgar. We count it a great privilege to have you and Netta here with us for a few weeks and especially to have you sharing at our Annual Convocation.

Rev. Mahon: Thank you! First, let me say what a privilege it is for us to be here and we thank God for enabling Netta and myself to spend this time with you here, and to attend the Convocation and, even in a small way, to share in the Convocation.

Rev. Minton: Edgar, share with us a

little of the background of the Mahon Mission.

Rev. Mahon: Well, Earl, the Mahon Mission goes back to the same time as the Christian Catholic Church was founded - in 1896. About that time copies of *Leaves of Healing* came to South Africa and many folks received these and were influenced through them. There was one man in particular who became a key figure in those days and that was a man by the name of Johannes Buchler. Rev. Buchler had a lot of contact with Dr. Dowie in Zion in those days and was appointed by Dr. Dowie as an Overseer for South Africa. In the year 1897, Rev. Buchler went down to Durbin for a holiday. On his way home he stopped for a little while with his step-sister, who was my grandmother. When he arrived there he found my grandfather desperately ill and shared with him the message of salvation, healing and holy-living - the message of the Christian Catholic Church. He assured my grandfather that the Lord could heal him and he prayed for him and he was healed instantly.

My grandfather began to proclaim Zion's message which brought him into a little conflict with some of the officers of the Salvation Army. Rather than cause division, my grandfather left the Salvation Army and continued a ministry on his own.

In 1904, the Christian Catholic Church sent out two couples to South

Africa. One was Overseer Daniel Bryant and his wife, and the other was a deacon and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Rideout. They made their home in Johannesburg and this became the center of the Christian Catholic work which developed largely among the whites. Another man who had been influenced by the *Leaves of Healing*, as well as by Rev. Buchler, was a man by the name of P. J. Le Roux who had studied as a teacher in the Dutch Reformed Church, and was later appointed as a missionary. Le Roux did extensive mission work then for the Christian Catholic Church and Overseer Bryant would visit between Le Roux and my granddad who was in the Free State, while Le Roux was in the northern Transvaal. Both works became a part of the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion. This relationship, particularly between grandfather continued.

One of the main reasons for such a proliferation of these works in South Africa today is due to the fact that shortly after Rev. Bryant left in 1908, three men came to South Africa from the States, purporting to be from the Christian Catholic Church. These men were John Lake, Tom Hezmalhalch, and Jacob A. Lehman. These men brought the teaching of tongues to South Africa. They came first to my grandfather, who gathered his native workers together, but these black folk refused to accept the teaching as it

didn't tie up with what they read in Scripture. They then went to Johannesburg and brought the teaching to the congregation which had been pastored by Overseer Bryant. Then they influenced Rev. Le Roux, who accepted it. This led to a split and Le Roux founded a new fellowship which was called The Apostolic Faith Mission. This work was almost entirely among the whites as most of the blacks refused to go along with him because they felt he was no longer being true to the teaching of Zion and had changed the name of the work. These black leaders continued work in the name of the Christian Catholic Apostolic Church. However, it seems that the Pentacostal teachings had entered into most of their works.

Another aspect, which developed about that time, was the wearing of robes. One of the leaders of these groups prophesied that the Lord Jesus was to return on a certain day and only those who were dressed in white and were ready to meet Him on a certain hilltop that day would be caught up to be with the Lord. Well, the Lord didn't come, but the white robes became a part of their attire from then on. We also find that at a later stage, these people took to themselves the use of sacred sticks and drums and other musical instruments in their worship. They are spread throughout Southern Africa.

Meanwhile, the work under my grandfather continued with the name Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion until 1946. At that time our black folk requested that the name be changed because of the large number of other groups calling themselves by the same name but not following the teachings and practices of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion. They were the ones who chose the name, Mahon Mission.

In 1957, because our work was not recognized by the government, though we had made many attempts for such recognition, and because only those churches so recognized were given church sites in the many developing black townships, it was felt best to become associated with the South African Baptist Missionary Society. This left us free to continue as an independent work though we reported quarterly to them on the progress of the work.

One of the most significant developments in the work occurred in 1960 when my father visited the United

States and spent considerable time with the then General Overseer, the Reverend Carl Q. Lee, in discussing the work which has come to be termed the Amazoni - the Zionists in South Africa. I believe that the Christian Catholic Church, for reasons which I cannot yet explain, was ignorant of what had been happening in South Africa. However, with the growing older of the official representative of the Christian Catholic Church in South Africa, Elder Mellor, more and more correspondence was being directed to the headquarters here in Zion. In 1960, Overseer Carl Lee asked Reverend Mahon if he would take care of this correspondence. He was happy to do this, and shortly after this retired from leadership in the Mission and devoted most of his time to ministry with these Zionist people in South Africa. After several years of voluminous correspondence, in 1956 a meeting was called of these different Zionist leaders and about 350 leaders of different groups gathered in Pietermaritzburg. Several of the men who gathered were impressed by the presentation and vision my father presented to them, and from this group a number have had close contact with the Mahon Mission, and I do believe that we have had an influence for good upon many of them and a number of them have sought fellowship with the Mission.

The next important event in the outreach to the Zionists was a visit to South Africa by General Overseer Carl Q. Lee to see for himself something of the vast scope and ministry opening to us amongst these separatist groups.

Rev. Minton: Edgar, this has been illuminating and challenging. Now share with us a little about the present status of the Mahon Mission.

Rev. Mahon: At present we have seven missionaries, 21 national ministers or pastors, 11 evangelists, 203 local preachers or local pastors and about 267 churches or preaching places. Our work has progressed, is self-supporting, and now, this year, they are supporting a family, the husband of whom is preparing for the ministry.

Rev. Minton: It is exciting to hear of the growth of the work and that the members are not only supporting their own pastors, but beginning now to reach out to others by supporting this family whose husband and father is studying for the ministry. May God continue to enlarge their vision and their ability and willingness to support

a greater outreach among their people. Now, would you share what you feel to be the challenge and opportunity that the Christian Catholic Church and the Mahon Mission has in relationship to these separatist groups who have had ties to us in the past.

Rev. Mahon: Earl, I think that there are some exciting things happening and some exciting opportunities for us in South Africa. South Africa has a population of just over 24 million, of which about 16 million are black. Out of these 16 million black, there are varying estimates as to how many really belong to those groups which claim some affiliation with the Christian Catholic Church. These estimates vary between 3 and 4 million. By simple arithmetic, this means that one out of every four or five blacks claim some affiliation with the Christian Catholic Church in Zion. Because the Mahon Mission was associated with the Christian Catholic Church in the early years, and carried the name of Christian Catholic Apostolic Church, and because of our contact still with Zion, and more recently with the Christian Catholic Church, we have a unique opportunity to minister to these people. I believe that this is God's timing.

These people have been on their own for about 75 years and many of these groups are crying for some help and guidance. Since 1962, we have literally been swamped with invitations to visit and minister to them. I believe God has opened to us a door, and I believe the time is ripe for us to enter that door. I, myself, have a personal burden for these people and by God's grace, have been involved in a small way in ministry to them, but I believe God is speaking to us to devote more of our time and energy to these people. I believe that one of the things that could be of great help would be if God would call someone from Zion, a mature family, who would have a burden for this work, to come and assist us in South Africa. These people are crying for help. They need to be organized. There are many who would like to be part of an organization which is under the wing of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion. I believe that one of the first steps in this direction would be the preparation of a Constitution which could be used by these people. We are also busy with the translation of the little booklet, *THIS WE BELIEVE*, published by the Christian Catholic Church. It has already been translated into three languages and we

hope to have them printed and available in a short time. We hope to use these as a form of instruction manual to instruct them in the beliefs of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion. We have also been promoting among them Sunday School lessons and helping them to establish Sunday Schools in their churches.

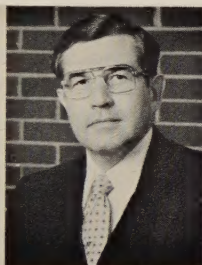
Rev. Minton: Speaking on behalf of General Overseer Ottersen and those of us on staff at the Christian Catholic Church, I know that we share the great concern that God would make us faithful to the opportunity and challenge He has given us at this time. Certainly we regret the neglect in communication with the workers in Southern Africa over the years and it is our prayer and trust that God would raise up laborers for this great task. As a matter of fact, I believe that God has already been speaking to hearts about this, and it is exciting to see all the ways in which God is at work to minister to these dear people. Thank you for sharing.

Rev. Mahon: Thank you, Earl.



Raising the Roof

General Overseer
Roger W. Ottersen



In the Biblical narrative of the healing of the paralytic man (Mark 2:1-12), we see the circumstances which brought about a great miracle. This miracle became a blessing to the man who was healed; it became a great inspiration and source of amazement to those standing by, and lessons from this story challenge us even today.

It is helpful to remember that the miracles of Jesus always had a two-fold purpose. They demonstrated His love, and they declared His Person—His Identity—as the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior.

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know;..." Acts 2:22

"But I have greater witness than that

of John; for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."

John 5:36

Many, through the blindness of their heart through sin, failed to recognize Him despite all the evidences, but they should have, for God gave abundant witness to Him through mighty miracles, even to the raising of Lazarus who had been dead for four days.

"But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him." John 12:37

The story of the healing of the paralytic begins with Jesus having returned to Capernaum after ministering in nearby areas and was preaching in a house. We are not told whose house it was, but from Mark 1:29, it could be inferred that He was in the house of Peter.

"And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John."

Mark 1:29

In February of this year, twenty-two of us visited our mission work in Egypt and Israel. On one of the days, we enjoyed a lovely boat ride across the Sea of Galilee from Tiberius to Capernaum. As we got off the boat, just to the right of the boat-dock was a very famous synagogue, of which the pillars and parts of the basic structure still stand. A little to the left of the synagogue was the House of Peter. We saw the excavations, walls and various breakdowns of the structure of Peter's house. This was where Peter and Andrew lived—as well as Peter's wife and mother-in-law (Mark 1:29, 30), as well as possibly others who are not specifically mentioned.

The news quickly spread that Jesus was back and in a very short time the house was crowded with people, anxious to hear what Jesus would say and to see any miracles He might perform.

Preaching was an important ministry of Jesus. In fact, the miracles which He performed were often for the purpose of confirming His message. He spoke with authority and God confirmed His word with miracles and wonders and signs.

To this house came four men carrying a fifth on a pallet or possibly a homemade stretcher. They must have been very excited yet very anxious. Somehow, they believed that Jesus

could heal their friend if they could just get close enough to Him to touch Him or ask Him. They must have also been somewhat anxious, hoping Jesus would still be there and that they would be able to get close to Him. Their friend was paralyzed and totally unable to help himself, and it wasn't easy to get through a crowd of people with a man on a stretcher.

Arriving at the house, they saw it jammed with people with many many others trying to get in or to get close enough to see and hear Jesus speaking. All hope of getting close to Jesus in that crowd was gone. What could they do? Was there no other way? Why, yes! There was another way. A stairway, outside the house, led up to the low, flat roof. They could tell just about where Jesus was located in the house and they would just dig up the mud and tile roof and let their friend down right in front of Jesus. Of course, it would cost something to repair the roof, but it would be worth it all, just to have their friend healed.

Everyone must have looked up at the ceiling when they heard these men digging up the mud plaster and tile and they must have pushed away as they saw chunks fall into the room. No doubt some must have sharply criticized the men for what seemed to be malicious destruction of someone else's property. However, when Jesus looked up, He saw something that no one else saw. He saw their faith. He saw the faith of the sick man and the faith of the four friends who brought him.

There is always a response in the heart of God to faith. Someone has said, "God hears prayer, but answers faith." Jesus said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

That statement immediately evoked an angry outburst from the Jewish teachers of the law.

"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

(Mark 2:7)

Jesus knew their thoughts. He also knew their unbelieving heart. He also knew that God wanted them to know that this was God's Son and that He had been given the same authority as the Father to forgive sins—that all men might honor the Son even as they honor the Father (John 5:23). This was a miracle of grace, not only to the paralytic, but to all present at the time of the miracle and to all people since. It

was another sign authenticating the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Jesus' reply to them was:

"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet and walk'? 'But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' — He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.'"

Immediately the paralytic was healed and he not only had strength to get up

but also to pick up his pallet and to go out before them all. He went out both saved and healed—by faith in Jesus.

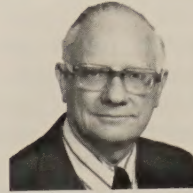
This same Jesus is still the One who forgives sins. Has He forgiven yours?

One final comment. The faith of the four friends was really the means by which the paralytic received the blessing of salvation and healing. You can be that instrument by which God can bless others. God answers believing prayer!



Terminally Ill — But Joyful

By Rev. Hugh Mainord



"Pastor, I have a neighbor who is dying of cancer and is very depressed. I don't know what to say to her. Will you call on her?" So began one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.

I was a professor and administrator in a Bible college full-time but also was serving as an interim pastor of a church about three miles from my home. Frankly, I too had no idea what to say to a terminally ill person since I had no previous experience and had never read a book on the subject. I had only been taught what to do *after* a person died—the funeral service and how to minister to the loved ones. I did know that the terminally ill and depressed person certainly needed comfort, so I looked through my tracts and found an appropriate one I could give her on my introductory visit. On that first visit her husband met me at the door and told me that she did not feel well enough to see anyone, so I left the tract in his hands and departed. A day or two later I received a phone call from the husband telling me she had read the tract and wanted to see me. Because that tract opened the door to all that happened later I share its contents with you now.

Faithful Is He Who Has Promised

Are you passing through a testing?
Is your pillow wet with tears?
Do you wonder what the reason,
Why it seems God never hears?
Why it is you have no answer
To your oft-repeated plea,
Why the heaven still is leaden

As you wait on bended knee?

Do you wonder as you suffer,

Whether God does understand,

And if so, why He ignores you,

Fails to hold you in His hand?

Do black doubts creep in, assail you,

Fears without, and fears within,

Till your brave heart almost falters

And gives way to deadly sin?

All God's testings have a purpose—

Some day you will see the light.

All He asks is that you trust Him,

Walk by faith and not by sight.

Do not fear when doubts beset you,

Just remember—He is near;

He will never, never leave you,

He will always, always hear.

Faithful is He who has promised,

He will never let you fall,

Daily will the strength be given

Strength for each and strength for

all.

He will gladly share pain with you,

He will gladly give you peace.

Till your tired and weary body

Finds its blessed, glad release.

When the darkened veil is lifted,

Then, dear heart, you'll understand

Why it is you had to suffer.

Why you could not feel His hand

Giving strength when it was needed,

Giving power and peace within

Giving joy thru tears and trial,

Giving victory over sin.

So till then just keep on trusting,

Thru the sunshine and the rain,

Thru the tears and thru the heart-
aches,

Thru the smiles and thru the pain—

Knowing that our Father watches,

Knowing daily strength He'll give,

Victory for each passing hour,

This is life, so let us live!

—John E. Zoller

On my next visit Margaret was glad to see me and commented on how much the poem meant to her. (In fact, she kept the poem with her everywhere she went until her death.) She was a tall woman, 50 years of age, and quite thin, having lost 80 pounds since her bout with cancer began. The most noticeable feature about her was the tube that was continually in one nostril and the fact that she kept kleenex near her mouth to catch the saliva.

I learned that she had been ill eight years and had had ten operations in the last fifteen months. She had long ago planned her funeral with the undertaker and was planning for surgery again soon. She rarely left the house. She was married later than most—to a widower who had a son who needed care. The son was now sixteen and very special to her.

One thing became very clear to me during that visit: she was very depressed, often crying, and needed someone who could and would discuss spiritual things with her. She did indicate that she was trusting Christ, not her own good deeds, for eternal life.

Over the next few months I saw her at least once each week, going the extra times when she called for help to fight depression. I supplied some tapes and a tape player for her, and often we discussed what the Scriptures teach about suffering and heaven. During this time I saw a radical transformation in her. Her eyes began to twinkle as she manifested a wonderful sense of humor. One day she surprised me with a poem she had written to me, saying in part:

There was a time I felt a part
Of God and all His plans.

But then I drifted far away
And couldn't reach His hand.

Sometimes you need a helping hand
To show you where you were wrong;
The thing you need is just to know
You really do belong.

And then one day in a round-about
way,

God sent His helping hand;
And now I'll never be grateful

enough
For this wonderful, wonderful man.

Margaret began to get out of the house more, even to shopping alone. I recall that on two occasions I had a package to open when visiting her. Once it was a new dress shirt—in appreciation! She had chosen it herself.

On another occasion she handed me a note that read, "Every cent I get I try to do a little something for you. I just want you to know "thank you" is not enough. You have brought so much happiness and joy into my life."

Margaret and her husband became regular Sunday morning church attenders even though she was often in great pain. On her last Easter she handed me a note which read:

Since they took the stitches out and found that one bad ulceration, my top teeth just press right down on it and I cannot ease the pain at all. I keep leaning it out as the doctor says, but the medication doesn't touch it. But Easter is here and I got up and came to church. Please forgive me if I'm not my gay old self, but I could scream. I had to come, especially today. God bless you and thank you for everything.

During the few months I knew Margaret she had two more operations. Before the first of these she wrote, "I don't mind telling you the thoughts of surgery terrify me. Please pray for me and think of me. Tomorrow night they will stick needles in me for hours." As she and her husband were on the way to the hospital for the last one they stopped by my office at the college.

She quickly spotted my beat-up attache case and said she wanted to get me a new one after her operation. I also assured her I would be down to see her right after the surgery.

I got down to the hospital right after she had been taken from the recovery room to her room and found her head all bandaged but could see no evidence of her breathing. I quickly notified the nurses' station and they rushed in to check on her. Her husband had just left the hospital to take a relative home. I soon learned that Margaret was indeed gone, and I was the one to break the news to her husband on his return and then to the son who was at home.

I conducted the funeral and shared as best I could some of the things Margaret and I had often discussed—suffering now and heaven later for those who are trusting Jesus alone.

A few days later her husband called and said he had something for me at his house. On my arrival he gave me a beautiful new black attache case because Margaret wanted me to have it. I also read the last poem she wrote—just twelve days before her "homegoing".

Dear Lord, look down from above,
On an unworthy one as I,
And take my hand and lead me home,
I am just too tired to try.
Help me put my trust in Thee, dear God,
Just let You take command,
Let me be brave and strong,
Please don't let go of my hand.
Give peace and love to all on earth,
Let everyone know your love,
Show them the way to see the truth,
Keep guiding from above.
Thank you, God, for my dear friends,
That have made my life worthwhile,
They have helped me and loved me all the way,
Just let me keep my smile.

Nine years have passed since then. The husband and son long ago moved from that neighborhood, and I have lost contact with them. But today I still wear a dress shirt Margaret gave me. And that attache case she gave me is just a couple of feet away from me as I write about its giver. But what matters most to me is to remember the change, even the joy, that came to a very depressed woman who found the comfort of the sure Word of God shared with her by a new friend. I'm so glad I got involved.



MISSIONS

For Praise & Prayer

"So we ourselves ought to support such people . . . to be fellow workers with them in the truth." III John 8.

Angola, Africa
letter from the Hockersmiths

September, 1982

Dear Friends:

Unfortunately, I didn't get very far when I started this on the 23rd, so we'll see if I can do better today. It is already nearing the end of the day, but hopefully there won't be interruptions and I can write. Days have turned rather hot and it is very noticable when the wind doesn't blow. Sometimes there is a strong wind, even in the night, so generally, the weather is very agreeable - if one doesn't have to work in the sun! Darrell is keeping seeds planted periodically, so we have fresh vegetables as long as we both do the watering.

This morning I talked with Luanda, but Darrell wanted to place a call to the Zigrangs in Menongue this afternoon and he learned that all lines are out of order to there, Benguela, Mocamedes, etc. I just now tried calling Luanda, but got a busy signal, so one never knows if they have been put out of order or just "closed" down intentionally. Some of the brethren 200 kilometers to the east of us have made possible corn for the students at Menongue, but what a time we are having with it! Permission from the government authorities is needed to transport it and what a hassle to get the permission. Now we need to make a trip to Kalukembe tomorrow to weigh the corn, because all of that is needed on the "guia" when transported.

Much patience needed in everything!

The Zingrangs and Elizabeth Suderman had a good four weeks with us and a safe return to Menongue, but Lois needs our prayers. She talked with her mother and learned she is finding it difficult caring for her father who has been quite ill. Lois is very concerned and would appreciate your prayers that she might know what is best. They are trusting to leave for furlough in December, but possibly she will leave earlier. The situation in Menongue is not good either, so it doesn't help; however, they have started the new school year in the Bible Institute with 15 old students and 12 new ones.

This past weekend five of the younger missionaries from Kalukembe

spent the weekend with us for a change and break. They took their picnic on Saturday and spent the day at a lovely place about two hours drive from here. The road is basically full of rocks, thus takes so long to travel over it, but they all had a good time and returned to Kalukembe on Monday morning. This coming Wednesday two of the doctors will be coming in to see patients at the Rio de Huila clinic for two days, then going on to another new area. In spite of mines and attacks, travel (up to this point) continues, but how we pray to be sensitive to His leading moment by moment. The work at Rio de Huila is growing and much prayer is needed for love and patience in the presentation of the Gospel in that dark and needy area. With a very heavy patient load, it isn't easy for the nurse; and the pastor there is of retiring age and needs a younger man on the scene.

The 13th and starting of the Bible College is nearing. Unfortunately, we have no housing, so no new students, but also the two teachers who left have not been replaced. Four students will continue full time and one part time, but unfortunately they will not have their full subject load.

Please, thank each one who made the bikes and motorbike possible for the work here in Angola. In March, at annual church conference, Darrell mentioned they were coming and the brethren with one voice expressed their thanks to those who made them possible. Not all are into the hands of those to whom they will go, but little by little. It is getting harder and harder to get around and to various places, but some travel still exists and when possible, Darrell will get bikes to them. **THANK YOU!**

We trust all is going well at the Church. Do give all that know us our greetings and love. We praise God for each of you and thank you for your faithfulness.

Much love and prayer,
Darrell & Barbara Hockersmith

Philippines

(Newsletter from Larry and Jan Allen)

July 27, 1982

Dear Prayer Partners,

In our last letter we spoke of our disappointment at my having to continue as an associate director in Manila until the end of the year. Now, dozens of boxes and two miles of string later,



we are settled back into our house at the Bagabag workshop center and looking forward to being back in Kibungan the first week of August. Why the sudden change?

At our biennial conference the end of May, I was elected Executive Committee Chairman, a post which may not be held concurrently with an associate director job. That means that aside from E.C. meetings every four months in Manila, we are free to return to our translation project among the Kankanaey. It still seems almost too good to be true!

Prayer requests as we return to Kibungan:

1) For Jan, as she teaches Christy and Marty (3rd and 1st grades). She is looking forward to it, but it's sometimes difficult to be both teacher and mother.

2) For someone to help with the housework and keep four month old Robby occupied while Jan teaches the other kids. I'm not sure I'm up to babysitting and translating at the same time!

3) For a good relationship with the eight New Tribes Mission teams (4 expatriate, 4 national) working in the Kankanaey area. We are hoping to schedule a 2-3 day seminar to share with them the principles we have followed in translation and to solicit their help in getting wider feedback to the translation. With significant dialect variations in each of the eight or more townships in the language area, this feedback is badly needed if we are to use the words and expressions that are most widely understood by Kankanaey speakers.

4) For me, that I will speedily relearn what I've forgotten. Language review will be my top priority until late September. Then, following a break for E.C. meetings, I hope to get back into translation work full time.

Thank you for standing behind us so faithfully while we've been in Manila. We trust you will rejoice with us as we now return to the translation project.

Yours in Christ,
Larry & Jan Allen

P.S. Same address: SIL, Box 2270, Manila 2801, Philippines Int'l Office: WBT, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Costa Rica, Central America

(Newsletter from Neil and Jeannie Rendall)

Dear Friends,

Here is an update on what God has done since we last wrote. God marvelously answered prayer and our home was rented, a missionary in Costa Rica rented us their home, and the Lord supplied \$6,700 of the \$10,000 needed by the time we left for Costa Rica on August 25th. Thank you for praying. We have been deeply moved by the loving care expressed to us.

We will now be studying Spanish 8-10 hours per day and we will continue to need your prayer for God's help in this. Our purpose is to touch the 25% of the students in the New York area who are Spanish speaking, and in touching them (who have leadership potential), touch future generations for Christ.

Our address is:
Instituto de Lengua Espanola
Apartado 100
2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios
San Jose, Costa Rica, Central America

Gifts (designated for Rendall's Costa Rican trip) should be sent to IVCF, 233 Langdon, Madison, WI 53703.

Yours in Christ,
Neil and Jeannie Rendall

Ashford, Connecticut

Letter from Mike Grigas

Dated October, 1982

"Say not ye, There are yet four months and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35, KJV

Dear Faithful Friend:

Greetings to you in the love of Jesus. I trust all is well. I am doing fine here at the camp. Fall is definitely here—the leaves have changed into many colors and the weather is cooling down considerably. In looking at this marvelous change in nature, I am reminded of the words of the Psalmist: "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (24:1). The Lord is indeed Sovereign over all things, even the changes in nature.

The Fall has been a busy time as we

Continued...

have been hosting a number of church groups and Christian organizations during the weekends. For me, it has meant spending much time in the kitchen, serving food and washing a lot of dirty dishes. I am also responsible for keeping our dining hall and residential quarters clean. Another event which begins this month is the evangelistic meetings in Brooklyn, New York for the Russian emigres. We at the camp are quite interested in this outreach as the children of many of these people attended our summer camp program. Some of us travel to New York to help in these events (about 3-1/2 hour drive) provided no major activities are going on at the camp. I hope to participate in some of these events.

This time of year is when the harvest of many crops take place. The plants reach a certain condition, which after being observed by the farmer, are picked for his consumption and for the market. How interesting that Jesus would use this analogy to make the same point. However, He tells us not to wait, for the harvest is already here. There are many souls "out there" who are waiting to be told the Good News, who are ripe for harvest. May we all pray that God will give us a burden for the lost, that we will not miss the harvest during the remaining months of this year. I have been going through the Minor Prophets in my devotions and have been challenged by a verse from Hosea 10:12, where he encourages Israel to "break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord..." May the Lord help us to weed out those things that may dampen our spiritual lives so that we may serve Him more effectively.

I wish to thank you again for your prayers and financial giving to the work here. The Lord's richest blessings be with you all.

"Family Night" ***at the*** ***Christian Catholic Church***

In trying to minister to the needs and interests of our large congregation, we found that we were scheduling something nearly every night of the week. This, we felt, was not in the best interests of family togetherness, so we have made Wednesday evening "Family Night" at the Church from seven until eight o'clock. For children 4-6 there

is the Cherub Choir. For those in grades 1-3, there is the Primary Choir. The Chancel Choir is for those in grades 4-6.

Separate Prayer Meetings and Bible studies are held for Junior High, High School, Young Adult Singles, and General Adult. In addition to the regular Adult Prayer Meeting, three other courses of Bible study are available: a basic doctrinal study, led by Pastor Minton, a course in evangelism, led by Pastor Mainord, and a study in Job, led by Mr. Larry Hoop. Attendance and enthusiasm has been very good in each of these meetings and we believe God will enrich all our lives through attendance. Also, in each of the Bible classes, needs for prayer are shared and prayer offered by members of the class.

Ministry With ***Young Adult Singles***

By Doug LaBelle

Ministering with young adult singles is a challenging and joyful opportunity. I thank God for giving me the tools and resources necessary for helping build His church through a ministry with singles.

We have come through a summer with some struggles and many joys; but most importantly we have observed growing commitments to discipleship. Singles are reaching out to meet the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs of people—pointing people to Jesus Christ while responding to their felt concerns.

The programs were designed so individuals could become involved at various levels of commitment. First, we had outreaches and fellowships including beach parties, Devil's Lake, Marriott's Great America, volleyball games, cookouts, campfires, and our Fourth of July weekend retreat at Camp Zion (definitely a highlight of the summer). Second, in our Sunday School class we have been thinking through interpersonal relationships with a particular emphasis on the single person's mentality and what must be evaluated when choosing a life partner. Third, we studied servanthood, using **Improving Your Serve** (Charles Swindoll) as our primary resource. The members involved would answer a series of questions related to each chapter in the

book. Then during Wednesday night Prayer and Bible time we would break up into small groups and discuss our various thoughts. For those people who attended regularly it proved to be a valuable time of learning and reevaluation of one's servanthood. Fourth, for a group of individuals who were willing to commit from three to five hours a week to reading, studying, and practicing, we had a leadership training class. In light of a continuous study of what and how Christ taught His disciples, these people received material and worked on assignments which would help equip them in the discipling of believers. There was some difficult work involved, but the response of most of the members at the end of the class was, "I am beginning to understand how to take what I know and put it to practical use". Over half of these individuals are college students who are returning to various campuses where they are involved with ministries in which the tools they have can be implemented — ministries such as intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

Again I praise God for His working in the lives of many people this summer. However we must persevere as a singles ministry by continually reevaluating our programs and motives and then moving forward in our constant purpose of building Christ's church.

For Husbands Only

Paul's advice for happiness in marriage is given in Ephesians 5:28, 29:

"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his life loveth himself.

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourish and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church."

Happiness in marriage is a by-product. The way for a husband to experience happiness in marriage is to make his wife happy (See verse 28). Husbands are to **NOURISH** their wives. This is done by giving them respect, building them up and making them feel important. Praise works wonders! To **CHERISH** a wife is to give her tender, loving care—to consider her needs and desires.

Husbands, does this sound too difficult? Are you looking for a shortcut to marital bliss? Shortcuts generally lead to marriage cemeteries.

ELM

**President Reagan's Message
to the
National Right To Life
Convention**

This article is a reprint of filmed remarks delivered by **President Ronald Reagan** at the **National Right to Life Convention**, July 15-17, 1982, in Cherry Hill, N.J.

Last year there were more than one and one-half million abortions in America. This is an assault on the sacredness of human life.

No one in America is more sensitive to this enormous tragedy and no one in America has done more to put a stop to it than those of you attending this right to life convention. It is you who have attempted to protect the helpless and speak for the unborn; you have carried the burden and fought the good fight. For this, God will bless you; and for this, millions of Americans, myself included, thank you.

"The time has come for Congress to face the national tragedy of abortion — to fully discuss and debate on the House and Senate Floors the heart-breaking dimensions of this tragedy."

But now — as Congress approaches the three-quarter mark in its current session — you deserve much more than thanks or mere verbal support. And certainly the hundreds of thousands, and perhaps millions, of unborn children who face extinction this year deserve much more than words — they deserve to have their right to life fully protected by law. The time has come for Congress to face the national tragedy of abortion — to fully discuss and debate on the House and Senate floors the heartbreaking dimensions of this tragedy.

The abortion tragedy is after all one of the greatest moral — and potentially one of the most divisive — issues to ever face this country. As history shows in the case of other such great issues, attempting to ignore them only causes a deeper disarray in our national life and increases the potential for disunity and disruption.

The Supreme Court's ruling that legalized abortion will continue to have a profound and painful impact on our nation until it is properly addressed by the people through their elected representatives. Only the other day, a Federal judge in Connecticut reopened the whole legal debate on this matter when he ruled that a fetus had civil rights including the right to sue an alleged attacker. Recently, a report by the Senate Judiciary Committee em-

phasized the far-reaching impact of the abortion tragedy by concluding that the effect of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions has been to legalize abortion right up until the moment of birth.

A few months ago, in my own state of California, a garage was discovered containing the bodies of 17,000 abortion victims — many of them late-term. The pictures I have seen are heart-rending and clearly show abortion is an assault on human life.

And only a few months ago, many of us read of a child in Bloomington, Indiana, permitted by the courts to die only because he was handicapped.

As George Will would write in an emotional but carefully reasoned — and, I might add, unforgettable — essay, the freedom to do away with inconvenient life is now being extended — just as those of us who are part of the right to life movement predicted — beyond fetal life to entirely new categories of life.

That is why the House and Senate must deal with the abortion issue. Major human life measures, such as Senator Helms' Human Life Bill, Senator Hatch's Human Life Federalism Amendment and Senator Hatfield's Abortion Funding Restriction Bill, deserve full consideration by the Senate this session. Believe me, in all of this, I share your sense of urgency.

This is the heart of the matter. The world is not ours to superintend — nor is innocent life ours to dispense with or terminate. Those decisions belong to another — another to whom suffering in our world is fully comprehensible and who counts our resignation in these matters to our credit. It is His guidance we seek now and in all of our future efforts.

Obviously, the days ahead will be important ones in the struggle for human life legislation. And what you do during the next few days will be vital to the success of our efforts in this great cause. I want you to know that you have my wholehearted support and my fervent prayers for your success. Have a good convention and God bless you.

C.S. Lewis once wrote that "love is something more stern and splendid than mere kindness." This is a critical insight into the present debate over abortion and it is something of what I meant when I wrote to George Will about his column on that child in Bloomington — a column in which George mentioned his own handicap-

ped son, Jonathan.

"The world is not ours to superintend — nor is innocent life ours to dispense with or terminate. Those decisions belong to another."

"Jonathan is indeed fortunate," I wrote, "that God has chosen the Wills for his parents; and, as I see from your column, the Wills are even more fortunate that God has given them Jonathan."

From "Intercessors for American Newsletter," September 1, 1982. Used with permission.

In Memoriam

Miss Cathy Pankoke, August 5, 1982, in Zion

Mrs. Martha Klemin, nee Foster, August 17, 1982, in Zion

Mr. Stephen Wesley Hill, August 17, 1982, in Waukegan.

Minnie Heiser, August 29, 1982, in Zion.

Mr. Walter Borden, August 30, 1982, in Racine, Wisconsin.

A Tribute To Cathy Pankoke

The homegoing of Cathy Pankoke gave fresh evidence of the grace of God and the triumph of faith. Cathy was 29 and had been afflicted with diabetes since she was a child. A few years ago she lost her eyesight, then the use of her kidneys, later lost a lower leg and foot, and was spending more time in the hospital than out. She finally reached the point where the doctors gave her the option of staying off the dialysis machine and hastening her end.

Cathy decided that if it were God's will to take her, He could do it while she was fighting for her life. God did answer her prayer and took her that night while she was on the dialysis machine. Her heart just stopped beating and she was in the presence of the Lord whom she had come to love.

During the time of her serious illness, her life became a testimony and inspiration to family, to nurses and doctors, and to visitors.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

(Revelation 14:13)